

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /086 W

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R 171504Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6155

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG LY UR

SUBJECT: LIBYA: PRESS CAMPAIGN SHARPLY DIMINISHES: SOVIET
OFFICIAL COMMENTS

REF: CAIRO 10991

1. SADAT ACTIVITIES AT COLOMBO DOMINATED CAIRO PRESS AUGUST 17
AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIBYA SHARPLY DIMISHED. PAPERS DO
NOTE QADHAFI'S STOPOVER IN TASHKENT ENROUTE AND HIS
REFUSAL TO INSPECT SRI LANKA GUARD OF HONOR. GUMHURRIYA
ALSO CLAIMS LIBYANS WHO WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO SRI LANKA
CARRIED EXPLOSIVES AND MACHINE GUNS IN BAGGAGE. SADAT
APPEARS NOT TO HAVE MENTIONED LIBYA IN SPEECH TO NAC
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(SEPTTEL).

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS AUGUST 16, SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY KOLESNIKOV RIDICULED RECENT GOE CHARGES THAT USSR ABETTING LIBYAN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN SUDAN AND EGYPT. KOLESNIKOV SAID USSR SUPPLIES ARMS TO LIBYA, AS US DOES TO OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT IT CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIONS OF RECIPIENT STATE. ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT MOTIVE OF GOE WAS IN ATTEMPTING DESIGNED TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN USSR AND ITS ARAB FRIENDS. HE NOTED THAT SOVIETS PROVIDE ARMS TO THE SUDAN AND HAVE BEEN ENJOYING GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. AKHBAR CARRIES VITRIOLIC AHMAD ZEIN EDITORIAL WHICH REVIEWS QADHAFI'S RECORD OF TERRORISM AND IS REplete WITH PHRASES SUCH AS "QADHAFI BOMBS WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR SAKE OF SATISFYING HIS AVOCATION OF KILLING AND SHEDDING BLOOD." EDITORIAL CLEARLY IMPLIES QADHAFI ACTING WITH SOVIET ARMS AND UNDER SOVIET PROTECTION.

4. COMMENT: KOLESNIKOV SHOWED NO ANGER OVER EGYPTIAN CHARGES OF SOVIET SUBVERSION CALLING THEM MERELY A GAME NATIONS PLAY. WE ARE STRUCK BY APPARENT SOVIET PUBLIC SILENCE (JUDGING FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW PRESS REVIEW) ON TENSIONS BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND LIBYA AND IN FACE OF ACCUSATIONS THAT GOE PERMITTING MEDIA TO MAKE AGAINST SOVIETS (REFTEL). EILTS

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